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Commission's Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 01-309

I am submitting comments in response to the petitions filed by various parties requesting the Commission to reconsider the Report and Order that modified the exemption for wireless phones under the Hearing Aid Compatibility Act of 1998.

The FCC rules requires digital phone manufacturers and service providers to take steps to reduce the amount of interference emitted from digital wireless phones and to provide the internal capability for telecoil coupling. I urge you to keep the rule intact. Many of my friends, and increasingly many Americans, will need access to digital wireless phones.

These requirements are vital for aging Baby Boomers with hearing loss resulting from years of rock concerts, who now (or soon will) rely on hearing aids if they are to be able to function in everyday life. It has become increasingly difficult to find or afford analog service. Pay phones are either out of order or disappearing completely. At this point, it is hard for people to find a digital mobile phone that can be used successfully with a telecoil. I am very hopeful that as the industry complies with the FCC rule that people with a hearing loss will have the option to buy and use a digital mobile phone like everyone else.

Being able to "test drive" the phone in the store before a plan is purchased is also very important. It is inconvenient to have to buy the phone, then find out that it does not work with the hearing aid, and then lose money when the service contract that was signed now has to be broken.

The 50% requirement is reasonable, both for people to have choices and to not be a burden on the manufacturers. Please do not reduce the percentage requirement.

Thank you for listening. Please retain the rule.

Yours truly,

Norma T. Bauer